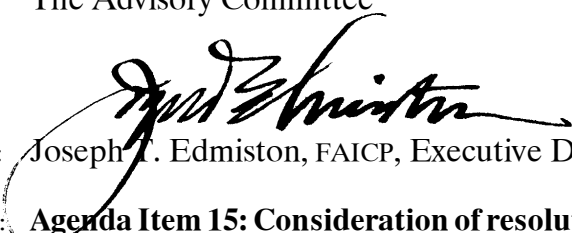


Memorandum

To : The Conservancy
The Advisory Committee

Date: April 25, 2005

From :  Joseph T. Edmiston, FAICP, Executive Director

Subject: **Agenda Item 15: Consideration of resolution authorizing the addition of the Westridge/Upper Mandeville trailhead to the Conservancy's Workprogram for the Safe Neighborhood Parks Act of 1996, Los Angeles.**

Staff Recommendation: That the Conservancy adopt the attached resolution authorizing the addition of the Westridge/Upper Mandeville trailhead to the Conservancy's Workprogram for the Safe Neighborhood Parks Act of 1996 (Proposition A Workprogram).

Legislative Authority: Sections 33211 (c) of the Public Resources Code

Background: The Conservancy's Initial Workprogram for the Safe Neighborhood Parks Act of 1996 was adopted in 1996. Subsequent to that adoption, the Rim of the Valley Trail Corridor was expanded a third time to include all lands south of the Antelope Valley (SR14) Freeway in the Santa Clara River watershed. In addition, the passage of Proposition 50 modified the boundary of the Santa Monica Mountains Zone to include all portions of the Los Angeles River watershed from the northernmost point of the City of Vernon. During the last nine years, projects have been periodically added. Many projects were added at the Conservancy's April 4, 2005 meeting. Projects must be on the Conservancy's Safe Neighborhood Parks Act of 1996 (Proposition A) Workprogram to qualify for any portion of that funding. The Conservancy's 1996 Proposition A Santa Monica Mountains advance funds were granted to the Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority (MRCA) soon after the measure was passed.

The proposed action would add the Westridge/Upper Mandeville trailhead project to the Conservancy's Workprogram for the Safe Neighborhood Parks Act of 1996. A map of the proposed project area at the northern terminus of Westridge Ridge Road is attached. The acquisition of the subject 239-acre property has been on the Proposition A Workprogram since 1997. However, a distinct project for substantial improvements to the project is not specifically called out in the subject resolution number 97-07 adopted in January 1997.

When the City of Los Angeles (Department of Recreation and Parks) and the Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority (MRCA) acquired the subject property with a combination of a grant from the Conservancy and a grant of Proposition K funds from City of Los Angeles, the City required that the MRCA construct a parking area for the project. The

need for the parking area came about from the high traffic volume of mountain bikers that would park at the end of Westridge Road. In its grant application for the Proposition K funds, the MRCA also committed to constructing a storage unit for mountain bikes such that youth from the Hollywood YMCA could readily ride in the Santa Monica Mountains. The MRCA staff has reserved \$50,000 of 1996 Proposition A Santa Monica Mountains advance funds for many years to accomplish these objectives. In October of 2002, the Conservancy granted Proposition 40 funds to the MRCA (Resolution No. 02-141) to construct an approximately 30-car parking and staging area at the subject location. However, that project proved to be environmentally infeasible and not aesthetically desirable because of the quantity of grading involved.

The plans now are for a much smaller parking area located directly adjacent to the terminus of Westridge Road. All construction would be on the City of Los Angeles-owned portion of the 239-acre ownership. Additional parking can be provided at the top of the Westridge fireroad at San Vicente Mountain Park that is managed by the MRCA. Likewise, a bicycle storage unit can also be located there where there are bathrooms and water.